IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 23, 45, and 51-56.
Please amend the claims as follows:

12. (Previously Presented) A clamping apparatus for use with a top drive for gripping and turning a drill string formed of pipe, the clamping apparatus comprising:

gripping members positioned to grip and support the pipe;

a drive member for moving the gripping members radially inwardly into a pipe gripping position and radially outwardly to a pipe releasing position; and

an attachment member for connecting the clamping apparatus to the top drive for wellbore drilling, wherein the clamping apparatus is rotatable by the top drive.

13. (Previously Presented) The clamping apparatus of claim 12, wherein the drive member includes a hydraulic system.

14. (Previously Presented) The clamping apparatus of claim 12, further comprising a stabbing spear extending out between the gripping members and formed to fit within the pipe to be gripped by the clamping apparatus.

15. (Previously Presented) The clamping apparatus of claim 14, wherein the stabbing spear includes a drilling fluid conduit for conducting a flow of drilling fluid from the top drive.

16. (Previously Presented) The clamping apparatus of claim 14, wherein the stabbing spear includes a seal adapted to seal between the stabbing spear and the pipe to be gripped.

17. (Previously Presented) The clamping apparatus of claim 12, further comprising a drilling fluid conduit for conducting a flow of drilling fluid from the top drive.

18. (Previously Presented) The clamping apparatus of claim 12, wherein the pipe comprises casing.

19. (Previously Presented) The clamping apparatus of claim 18, wherein the drive member includes a hydraulic system.

20. (Previously Presented) The clamping apparatus of claim 18, further comprising a stabbing spear extending out between the gripping members and formed to fit within the pipe to be gripped by the clamping apparatus.

21. (Previously Presented) The clamping apparatus of claim 12, wherein the gripping members are adapted to transfer torque to the pipe.

22. Cancelled.

23. Cancelled.

24. (Previously Presented) A gripping apparatus for use in connection with a top drive assembly, comprising:

a housing defining a central passageway sized for receipt of a tubular, the housing being coupled to the top drive assembly for rotation therewith;

a plurality of gripping elements disposed within the housing and displaceable between disengaged and engaged positions; and

a powered system adapted to selectively drive the plurality of gripping members between the disengaged and engaged positions.

25. (Previously Presented) The gripping apparatus of claim 24, wherein the powered system comprises a hydraulic system.

26. (Previously Presented) The gripping apparatus of claim 24, wherein the plurality of gripping members are moved radially when displaced between the disengaged and engaged positions.

27. (Previously Presented) The gripping apparatus of claim 24, wherein the tubular comprises casing.

28. (Previously Presented) The gripping apparatus of claim 27, wherein the plurality of gripping members are moved radially when displaced between the disengaged and engaged positions.

29. (Previously Presented) The gripping apparatus of claim 24, wherein the housing is coupled to a drive shaft of the top drive assembly.

30. (Previously Presented) The gripping apparatus of claim 24, wherein the plurality of gripping members are adapted to engage an exterior portion of the tubular.

31-38. Cancelled.

39. (Previously Presented) A clamping apparatus for use with a top drive for gripping and turning a drill string formed of pipe, the clamping apparatus comprising:

gripping members positioned to grip and support the pipe;

a drive member for moving the gripping members radially inwardly into a pipe gripping position and radially outwardly to a pipe releasing position;

an attachment member for connecting the clamping apparatus to the top drive for wellbore drilling; and

a stabbing spear extending out between the gripping members and formed to fit within the pipe to be gripped by the clamping apparatus.

40. (Previously Presented) The clamping apparatus of claim 39, wherein the stabbing spear includes a drilling fluid conduit for conducting a flow of drilling fluid from the top drive.

41. (Previously Presented) The clamping apparatus of claim 39, wherein the stabbing spear includes a seal adapted to seal between the stabbing spear and the pipe to be gripped.

42. (Previously Presented) The clamping apparatus of claim 39, wherein the drive member includes a hydraulic system.

43. (Previously Presented) The clamping apparatus of claim 39, wherein the gripping members are adapted to transfer torque to the pipe.

44. (Currently Amended) A clamping apparatus for use with a top drive for gripping and turning a drill string formed of casing, the clamping apparatus comprising:

gripping members positioned to grip and support the casing;

a drive member for moving the gripping members radially inwardly into a casing gripping position and radially outwardly to a casing releasing position; ~~and~~

an attachment member for connecting the clamping apparatus to the top drive for wellbore drilling; and

a stabbing spear extending out between the gripping members and formed to fit within the casing to be gripped by the clamping apparatus.

45. Cancelled.

46. (Currently Amended) The clamping apparatus of claim ~~45~~ 44, wherein the stabbing spear includes a drilling fluid conduit for conducting a flow of drilling fluid from the top drive.

47. (Currently Amended) The clamping apparatus of claim ~~45~~ 44, wherein the stabbing spear includes a seal adapted to seal between the stabbing spear and the casing to be gripped.

48. (Previously Presented) The clamping apparatus of claim 44, further comprising a drilling fluid conduit for conducting a flow of drilling fluid from the top drive.

49. (Previously Presented) The clamping apparatus of claim 44, wherein the drive member includes a hydraulic system.

50. (Currently Amended) The clamping apparatus of claim ~~45~~ 44, wherein the gripping members are adapted to transfer torque to the casing.

51-56. Cancelled.

57. (Previously Presented) A method for gripping and turning a tubular using a top drive, comprising:

coupling a gripping apparatus to the top drive, the gripping apparatus having radially movable gripping elements adapted to engage the tubular;

actuating the gripping elements to engage the tubular;

inserting a fluid conduit into the tubular; and

rotating the top drive, thereby rotating the tubular.

58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57, wherein actuating the gripping elements comprises moving the gripping elements radially.

59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57, wherein the gripping elements are actuated using a hydraulic fluid.

60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57, further comprising transferring torque to the tubular.

61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57, wherein the fluid conduit comprises a gripping tool.

Please add the following new claims:

62. (New) The method of claim 57, wherein the tubular comprises casing.

63. (New) The method of claim 58, wherein the gripping elements are actuated using a hydraulic fluid.

64. (New) The method of claim 58, further comprising transferring torque to the tubular.

65. (New) A clamping apparatus for use with a top drive for gripping and turning a drill string formed of casing, the clamping apparatus comprising:

gripping members positioned to grip and support the casing;

a drive member for moving the gripping members radially inwardly into a casing gripping position and radially outwardly to a casing releasing position;

an attachment member for connecting the clamping apparatus to the top drive for wellbore drilling; and

a drilling fluid conduit for conducting a flow of drilling fluid from the top drive.

66. (New) A clamping apparatus for use with a top drive for gripping and turning a drill string formed of casing, the clamping apparatus comprising:

gripping members positioned to grip and support the casing;

a drive member for moving the gripping members radially inwardly into a casing gripping position and radially outwardly to a casing releasing position; and

an attachment member for connecting the clamping apparatus to the top drive for wellbore drilling, wherein the drive member includes a hydraulic system.